

the PCT was not published in English until May 25, 2006. On the other hand, the present application is a national stage of PCT/JP2004/016116 filed October 29, 2004. The present application is an accurate English-language translation of the PCT application filed in Japan. Since the PCT filing date of the present application is before the U.S. patent publication date of Aoyama, Aoyama is not a prior art reference.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims is respectfully requested.

## **II. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-9 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 25, 2010

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